EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 20, Number 4 April 2003

The ELCA Conference of Bishops

(The following is a statement from the ELCA Conference of Bishops. The Bishops met March 6-11, 2003 in Charleston, South Carolina.)

A War Against Iraq

A war against Iraq, led by the United States and a coalition of other nations, seems more and more likely. In response, the conference urges that this church engage in special Lenten disciplines of prayer and fasting in behalf of peace. The conference asks that on the remaining Sundays in Lent each congregation make peace a particular focus in the Prayers of the Church.

Because the prospect of war is of concern to the entire global community, this is also an appropriate time to join with fellow Christians and persons of other faiths in times of worship, prayer, and deeds which bear witness to our faith that God cares for all of creation and the whole human family.

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A War With Iraq

The following prayers are provided for use in worship:

† Let us pray that God will hasten the day when swords are beaten into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, and people will learn war no more.

† Let us pray for the people of Iraq, including fellow members of the Body of Christ in the churches there, who have already suffered for so long under an oppressive regime.

† Let us pray for the United States service men and women in and around Iraq, that they will be preserved in health and safety.

† Let us pray for US military chaplains, especially ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thanking God for their courage and asking God to bless their ministry among our nation's military forces.

† Let us pray for President George Bush and the leaders of our nation, that God will give them wisdom and compassion, enabling them to preserve the security of our nation while also sparing the people of Iraq from war.

"Let Us Pray..."

† Let us pray for Saddam Hussein and the leaders of Iraq, that they will choose peace, comply with the international mandate to destroy weapons of mass destruction, and end the oppression under which their people are forced to live.

† Let us pray for peace, knowing that it is God's will for all of creation

2003 Assembly Information

The 2003 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, May 16, and Saturday, May 17, at Trinity in Lynnwood.

The theme of the 2003 Synod Assembly is *Kneaded by the Master* centered around transformational ministry (also known as renewing congregations). Rev. Claire Burkat is the keynote speaker.

More information about Transformational Ministry or Renewing Congregations can be found on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/do.

Registration forms and other information about the Assembly can be found at www.lutheransnw.org.

The deadline to submit resolutions was March 1.

News From The Synod

Pre-Retirement Seminar Scheduled

The Pre-Retirement Seminar scheduled for Friday and Saturday, **June 13-14**, at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah, is filled. There is a waiting list. We are considering another seminar in early November. Please call the Synod Office at 206-783-9292 to get on the waiting list for November.

The seminar is hosted by the ELCA Board of Pensions.

Appreciation Luncheons

All retired pastors and associates in ministry and their spouses, and clergy widows have been invited by the Bishop to one of two "appreciation" luncheons. The first luncheon was held in mid-March but there is still time to attend the second luncheon. The luncheon will be held on **Monday, March 31** at Prince of Peace in Shoreline.

A direct mailing with a return postcard was sent to all retirees and widows. Please RSVP by returning the postcard. If you need more information please contact the Synod Office at 206-783-9292 or at 1-800-244-6997.

Newsletter News

The monthly combined issue of *Soundings* and *The Spirit* will be published for the month of May/June. (Not June/July as in previous years.)

Kneaded by the Master

Two special events will be held immediately following the 2003 Synod Assembly:

- *Your congregation can be healthy and vital*—7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 17;
- *Your congregation can help sponsor a new congregation*—2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.

Rev. Claire Burkat will also be the keynote speaker during these two special events. Plan to attend one or both of these special events. Registration is separate from the Assembly's registration. These two events are sponsored by the Synod's Board of Outreach and Evangelism.

For more information visit the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly.

Thanks

The Synod's Board of Outreach and Evangelism is working hard to help coordinate the program for the 2003 Synod Assembly. Chair is Rev. Terry Kyllo, Celebration in Anacortes. Celebration is one of our mission congregations.

Toward the Spring of Life:

Bringing People to Baptism and Beyond

Mark your calendars now for a special training retreat to welcome and nurture unbaptized and "de-churched" people to your congregation from Sept. 11 through 13.

Far beyond new member classes, our congregations must be engaged in welcoming people to Christ and developing with them the life-long skills of faith. Consider setting aside three days to be immersed in the catechumenate process and begin to develop a team of leaders within your parish. A pastor along with several lay people form a catechumenate ministry team and should be trained together.

Watch for more information coming your way soon in a special mailing. In the meantime, questions may be addressed to Bev Piro at Phinney Ridge in Seattle at 206-783-2350 or by email at bpiro@prlc.org.

(Editor's Note: The March issue of The Lutheran magazine had an article about the catechumenate. The article is called Living Waters and highlights the catechumenate program at Phinney Ridge. Check the article out beginning on page 36.)

Save this new and updated list of Cluster Deans

Northwest Washington Synod
Cluster Deans

Cluster	Dean	Phone Number	Email Address
Whatcom	Stan Jacobson	360-592-5876	stanej@worldnet.att.net
Skagit	Jerry Buss	360-679-1561	pastor@whidbey.net
Stillaguamish	Randy Sinn	360-652-9545	rev_sinn@greatnorthern.net
Sno-Isle	David Parks	425-252-0413	pastorparks@oslc-everett.org
Sno-King	Jim Kruse	425-778-2189	clcedmonds@mindspring.com
NE Seattle	Julie Blum	206-524-2448	mapleleafelcapastor@attbi.com
NW Seattle	Julie Josund	206-783-3930	calvaryelca@earthlink.net
Central Seattle	Sue Wanwig	206-461-7835 x31	swanwig@compasscenter.org
East King	Wes Howell	425-454-4344	bellgrace@aol.com
SeaTac	Ron Seymour	206-243-0987	rseymour@speakeasy.org
South King	Doug Stensby	206-772-0400	revstensby@msn.com
Cascadia	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel	425-486-2314	pastormarillyn@hotmail.com

Enough for All:

Sustainable Living in a Global World Environmental Justice Conference

In a world that is moving towards a global marketplace, how can we build a human economy that is sustainable, just, and honors all of God's creation?

This is the question that people of faith from across the country will be addressing during *Enough for All: Sustainable Living in a Global World* from June 20 to 23 at Seattle University. Cost is $ 100 for the conference and meals.

The conference, sponsored by the Environmental Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches, will examine the spiritual, ethical and theological implications of living in a global economy. Participants will discover a spectrum of individual, congregational, and societal actions that can help create a healthier and more just, sustainable world.

This biennial gathering of the ecumenical community is open to denominational staff, clergy and lay leaders, theological educators and anyone interested in learning how the Christian community can take a leadership role in addressing issues of sustainability.

For more information contact Danielle Welliever at 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2281, or at Danielle_Welliever@elca.org.

A Gathering of Lutherans

Prior to the *Enough for All Conference* (see article above), Lutherans will have an opportunity to gather together at 1 p.m. on June 20 at Seattle University. This gathering is sponsored by LENS, the Lutheran Earthkeeping Network of the synods.

LENS is an informal network of Lutherans committed to sharing information and strengthening one another in their earthkeeping ministries within their synods.

Please join us. For more information: Contact Danielle Welliever, ELCA Director for Environmental Education and Advocacy, Danielle_Welliever@elca.org, or 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2281.

Conference Scholarships Available

A limited number of scholarships are available for women of color and low-income women to attend the *Enough for All: Sustainable Living in a Global World.* These scholarships are made possible through Katie's Fund, a permanent endowment fund of Women of the ELCA supporting Women of the ELCA ministries in global sharing, leadership development and living theology. For more information contact Danielle Welliever, ELCA Dir. for Environmental Education and Advocacy at 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2281, or Danielle_Welliever@elca.org.

Earth Day 2003

Earth Day is April 22 this year. Many congregations will designate the Sunday following as their day to focus on awareness of creation and the environment.

This year's theme is *Waters of Life: Enough for All.* Through the Earth Day materials you can learn how your congregations can be a part of good water management so that all people will have access to fresh, safe water.

For materials to help you focus on Earth Day, please go to our Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on the Earth Day logo. You will be taken directly to the page on the ELCA website. For printed copies, contact Danielle Welliever at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2281.

Caring and Listening Ministries Lab 1

Caring and Listening Ministries Lab 1 will be held on October 10-12 and November 7-9, 2003, at Sammamish Hills in Sammamish.

Both weekends are required for certificate of completion. Cost is $100, meals and materials are included.

For a brochure with full details, please contact Sammamish Hills Office, 425-392-7799.

LWF Week at Holden Village

Following this summer's Lutheran World Federation Assembly, Holden Village will be hosting about a dozen delegates from the Assembly. The delegates will be from countries all over the world and will provide ELCA members with a wonderful opportunity to experience the rich diversity of the Lutheran Church.

The delegates will be at Holden from August 2-8 and 20 spaces are being reserved for members of our Synod. As of February 24, interested persons can register online at the ELCA Churchwide website. Simply go to the following address, www.elca.org/dgm/lwf, and follow the directions. Once the reserved spaces are filled additional people can register but one is not assured of a spot.

This should be an exciting week and a rare chance to interact with Lutherans from around the globe. Please consider taking part in this opportunity.

Statement on Health Care

The 2003 Churchwide Assembly will act upon a proposed social statement on health and health care. To read the proposed social statement before the assembly takes action on it, you can find it online at www.elca.org/dcs/healthcare_statement.html. Please note, this online version is not an official ELCA social statement and is for information only.

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director; Lutheran Public Policy Office

Once again I want to report to you about our state legislature. By the time you read this, our legislatures will have completed 11 weeks of work and heard close to 2,500 pieces of legislation.

Also, by the time you read this, the state revenue forecast will have been issued and the House Appropriations committee will have finished its work on the governor's budget. That budget will either still be on the floor of the House for debate and vote, or will have been sent over to the Senate for their examination. The democratic process at work – it tests one's patience!

The governor's budget only included cuts and did not call for any new revenue. We cannot allow some of our state's critical human service programs to be cut or eliminated. We need to use our voice as Moses did to Pharaoh in regards to the suffering and the poor. Or, as it says in Matthew 25 "...as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me".

I urge you to please call 1-800-562-6000 (M-F 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and leave a message. Let them know that you are in favor of raising revenue to cover the critical human service programs like General Assistance-Unemployable, the Basic Health Plan, the state's portion of Medicaid and the Medically Indigent. (The ELCA adopted a social statement on Economic Life. Read it at www.elca.org/dcs/socialstatements.html. The statement on Economic Life is called *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All.*)

There are three policy bills that the Washington State Lutheran Public Policy Office has testified on in your behalf. (See related article on page 16 from the Synod's Anti-Racism Committee.):

- In- State Tuition bill—allows undocumented young people in this state, who have graduated from school in Washington State, access to the in- state tuition rate of our state's college's and universities.
- Hate Crimes bill—prohibits insurance companies from not renewing policies to religious and non-profit organizations that have been victims of a hate crime.
- Adding sexual orientation to the state's anti-discrimination code.

On March 12 we held our first Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia. Thank you to those who attended. We had a great time of learning and exercising our faith as advocates.

I also want to thank those of you who have "taken 5" to make a call, write a letter or send an email to the governor or to our legislators. Keep it up. It does make a difference and is a great way to exercise your faith in the world. Remember that Moses and Aaron were not successful their first time in to see the Pharaoh.

Blessings to you this Lenten season as we all journey to the foot of the cross to encounter the Advocate, the crucified Savior of the world!

Praying the Seasons of Our Lives

The Northwest Washington Synod Women of the ELCA is holding a spring retreat Friday, May 2, through Sunday, May 4, at Camp Berachah in Auburn.

The Rev. Susan Briehl is the retreat speaker. Rev. Briehl has been a parish pastor, Lutheran Campus pastor at PLU (together with her husband, the Rev. Martin Wells) and served for five years as co-director of Holden Village. She is also a writer, a retreat leader and does Bible studies that are sheer poetry.

Registration includes two nights lodging, five meals and program costs. Cost is $120 if you register before March 15; or $130 if you register by April 15.

For more information contact Yvonne Deacon, registrar, at 19228 Fifth Ave S, Des Moines, WA 98148

Year-long Jazz Series

Maple Leaf Lutheran in Northeast Seattle announces STaR*CHiLD, year-long Jazz Benefit Concert Series for YATMA (Youth Advancement Through Music and Art, a nonprofit sited at the church). The goal of the series is to build a scholarship for children who are at-risk or disadvantaged.

Well-known jazz pianist Marc Seales and legendary sax great Don Lanphere will also appear for one concert For dates and line-up visit www.reachoutchurch.org.

Thrivent Provides Challenge Grant

by Rev. David Wold

The Fund for Leaders In Mission has received a significant assist from Thrivent in the form of a $1 million Challenge Grant that began on March 1, 2003 and will end at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly in 2005. Thrivent will match 50 cents on the dollar for all cash contributions during that time. Your gift of $200 becomes $300, $10,000 becomes $15,000, and, well, you can do the math.

The Fund will make it possible for all seminarians to have a significant level of financial support, and establish a partnership between future leaders and the Church they will serve that makes clear our solid commitment to carrying out Christ's mission in the 21st century.

Already over 40 students across the country are being supported by this new venture. Mark Samuelson of the Southwestern Washington Synod was one of the first recipients. But more than 1000 more await your generosity and faithfulness. Our Synod is in full support of this effort and urges you to make this a part of your faithful stewardship.

You can make a donation online by going to the ELCA website, clicking on the ELCA Foundation, and then finding the Fund for Leaders In Mission. Or, if you need more information, contact me by email at dandewold@msn.com; telephone 253-229-7700; or write to me 1506 136th St. Ct. S. Tacoma, WA 98444.

Deeper Life Festival—Go Tell!

The year's *Deeper Life Festival* involves a wealth of activities for the whole family including a Saturday Night Carnival and a time for prayer. It will also feature inspirational presentations by Walt Wangeirn, Jr.; solid Bible studies led by current faculty from Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah; rich worship; spiritual renewal; and vibrant fellowship.

Come and join the Christ-centered community of Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah for this annual *Deeper Life Festival* from June 27 through 29. Cost is $40 per person and there is no cost for infants through Kindergarten.

For more information, please visit the College's website at www.tlc.edu and click on *Deeper Life Festival*. Registration material is available at the site or you can contact the College at 425-392-0400.

Worship/Music Conference:

For All Who Lead Worship

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) 2003 biennial conference theme is *Living Stones 2003* and will be held June 28 through July 3 in San Diego. Highlights include worship opportunities in Southern California's most stunning churches and cathedrals, workshops, keynotes by Bishop Stephen Bouman and former Iranian hostage Kathryn Koob. For more information visit www.alcm.org or call 1-800-624-2526.

TV Eucharist

This coming Easter Day will mark an exciting step in Echumenical Ministry as the Northwest Washington Synod joins with the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia to co-sponsor the weekly *TV Eucharist* program.

To mark this new relationship, Bishop Chris Boerger and Bishop Vincent W. Warner will preside and preach for the services that will be aired on Easter Day as well as the Second Sunday of Easter.

TV Eucharist is a 30-minute service produced by KING-TV Channel 5. The program is aired every Sunday at 5 a.m. on KONG-TV Channel 6/16 and on cable channel 6. It reaches an estimated 4,000 households. This Easter also celebrates the 30th anniversary of this unique program, which is aimed primarily to those who are shut-in or otherwise unable to attend church.

Through the years many ELCA clergy and laity have joined with their Episcopal colleagues on *TV Eucharist*.

If you would like to have more information please visit the website at *http://www.tveucharist.org* (still in its "Episcopal" version). Or, you can contact either Rev. Dennis Andersen, Bethany in Seattle, at 206-523-4454 or Rev. Mike Jackson, producer of the program and retired Episcopal priest, at 206-726-9761.

Same Time, Different Station

Our radio ministry, *Lutheran Vespers*, can still be heard at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays but on a different station. You can now find *Lutheran Vespers* on KTTH 770 AM.

It is only through the generosity of individuals, congregations and businesses that *Lutheran Vespers* can be heard in our area. *Lutheran Vespers* is a wonderful outreach ministry. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please visit the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org.

Speaker Walt Wangerin will be here in the Seattle area for the *Deeper Life Festival* at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah. See more details on page 9.

Resource Center News

The Visual Bible, a Bible Study on video, presents Jesus working miracles, delivering the Sermon on the Mount and telling His parables. It provides a glimpse of Jesus at work. The script for the dramatization is the NIV text of the Bible with no additional words. There are three videos in the series with a facilitator's guide. To reserve your video, contact the Region 1 Resource Center at 206-624-0093, ext 100.

- The Sermon on the Mount: Unforgettable Lessons (v-1294)
- Miracles: The Power and the Presence (v-1292)
- Parables: Stories Jesus Told (v-1293)

Region 1 Pastoral Conference

Make your plans now to attend the Region 1 Pastoral Conference April 28- May 1 at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. The Planning Committee has been working hard, and has secured two excellent speakers: Pastor Steve McKinley and Bradley Hanson.

Pastor Steve McKinley from House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, Minn, writes the *Pastor Loci* column in *Lutheran Partners* magazine. His wit and insight has been helpful to many. Bradley Hanson, Director of Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation and Professor Emeritus of Religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, has authored six books, the newest of which is *A Graceful Life: Lutheran Spirituality of Today (2000)*. He is currently working on another book on Lutheran spirituality for Orbis Press.

Registration information was mailed in January. Costs are: $350/person, double occupancy, $500/single occupancy. Conference and meals without lodging is $210. Registration deadline is March 15. Space cannot be guaranteed after that date.

For more information check the web site at www.region1pastors.org.

This is the only independent regional event regularly held. We hope you will show your support by registering early.

Head of Ministry Staff Gathering

The Spring *Head of Ministry Staff* gathering will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 22 at St. Matthew's in Renton.

The purpose of this Gathering is to provide a place for heads of ministry teams to come together on a quarterly basis for the sharing of resources, ministry strategies, leadership methodologies and to address the issues that are unique to being the head of a ministry team. May's theme is *Leadership: Three Visions.* Presenters are Rev. Kirby Unti of St. Matthew in Renton, Rev. Jim McEachran of St. Andrews in Bellevue and Rev. Mark Reitan of Trinity in Lynnwood.

If you have questions, contact either the May host, Rev. Kirby Unti, at 425-226-2420 or Rev. John LaMunyon at Sammamish Hills in Sammamish at 425-392-7799.

Scholarship Available

The Synod Office has receive information from Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity regarding a $500 scholarship program for first-year seminary students. Students need to be starting in the fall of 2003. Applicants do not need to be Beta Sigma Psi members. For more information visit their website at www.betasignampsi.org.

Women of Grace

The congregation of Grace in Des Moines is offering a special conference called *Women of Grace* from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. at Grace, 22975 24th Ave South, Des Moines.

This is the third year for this special conference for women of all ages, and it will be filled with blessings. It's a time of fellowship, praise, singing, scrumptious food and workshops. (Workshops include stamping with friends; flower arranging and tips; caring for our body; what God says about relationships; and much more.)

Early registration fee is $35, $40 after April 13. No registrations accepted after April 25. Registration fee includes lunch. Childcare is available for a small fee. Contact Kim at 206-878-2460 or email at KimWiggin@aol.com. Or visit www.gotgrace.com.

Lutheran Women's Caucus

What Does it Mean to be a Reconciling Congregation will be the program of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Lutheran Women's Caucus beginning at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at Central in Seattle. The presenter for the day is Rev. Shannon Anderson, pastor of Central. Her congregation is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The meeting will begin with shared finger food and participants are asked to bring their own cup or mug for beverages. Both the luncheon and program are open to the public. For more information, telephone 425-747-5924.

Board of Pensions

Have You Accessed Your Account Online?—Online access is now available! Members may now view their account balances and make transactions online. Both salary-reduction and employer contributions are now part of the new ELCA Retirement Plan funds. Review your retirement account distributions by selecting the Online account access link on the top of any www.elcabop.org page. For more information see www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes/retirement_plan

Thinking About Taxes?—The April 16 tax deadline is just around the corner. The ELCA Board of Pensions has resources to help you:

- Pastors can find helpful information in our Clergy taxes and housing section at www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/taxes_housing
- A free copy of the 2002 Minister's Guide for Income Tax is also available by contacting the Board of Pensions at www.elcabop.org/contact_us
- Church administrators and treasurers have resources available in our Administrator guide at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/administrators (select tax reporting)

Look For Beneficiary Forms—As part of the recent changes to the ELCA Retirement Plan, you may have received a letter requesting you to complete your beneficiary designation form. Please watch your mailbox for this form or download the form and return it to the Board of Pensions. Beneficiary designation forms are available at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/forms_pdf

How Many Members?

From the 2003 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, the ELCA is the sixth largest church in the USA and the fourth largest Protestant church in the USA. Here are the ten largest churches, by membership, in the USA, in order from largest:

1. The Roman Catholic Church—65.2 million
2. The Southern Baptist Convention—16 million
3. The United Methodist Church—8.3 million
4. The Church of God in Christ—5.5 million
5. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—5.3 million
6. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—5.1 million
7. The National Baptist Convention USA—5 million
8. The National Baptist Convention of America—3.5 million
9. Presbyterian Church (USA)—3.5 million
10. Assemblies of God—2.6 million

Youth News

Holden Youth Weekends—Registration opened on February 1 for this year's Holden Youth Weekends. Contact Kay Sawyers, registrar, at 208-525-7636 or email at fmdidgad@ida.net for registration forms.

Justabouteverythingpages (JAEP)—If you have not received your JAEP for 2003, please call 206-624-0093, ext. 113. The entire publication is up on the web at www.elcaregion1.org/youth.

Evergreen Youth Television (EYTV) Summer Camps—EYTV summer camp is scheduled for July 23 through August 3 at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah. Applications are due March 31. For more information contact Dave Ellingson at dave@eytv.orf

God Could Use Someone Like You

Luther Seminary is offering a free CD, *God Could Use Someone Like You*, to help you identify the next generation of church leaders. This interactive tool is full of student, faculty and alumni/ae stories in video, text and photos. It answers the questions such as: what is ministry like, what are the ways I can serve, lay and ordained; what is seminary like; and why should I go to Luther Seminary. For a copy of this CD please contact Luther Seminary at 1-800-Luther3 or visit their website at www.luthersem.edu/CD.

Therapist Needed

The Lutheran Counseling Network is looking for a full-time therapist for individual, couple, family and group therapy to work in the Kent area. Requirements include: licensed in Washington State as a psychologist or master's level therapist and involvement in a Christian community. Please send resumes to: Lutheran Counseling Network, 2415 S. 320th Street, Federal Way, WA 98003

Parish Administrator

Gift of Grace in Seattle seeks a Parish Administrator. The successful candidate will work closely with the pastor, members, and volunteers of the congregation to facilitate, coordinate and manage the everyday activities in the life of the congregation. Qualifications include: previous experience in the work force; AA or college degree preferred; excellent coordination and organization skills; proficiency with Microsoft Office suite. Applicants should contact Gift of Grace at 206-632-2662; email at office@giftofgrace.org; address 2102 N. 40th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

Minister of Music

Calvary in Federal Way is now hiring a Minister of Music. Responsibilities include: direct adult choir; schedule special music; and work closely with pastors, Worship and Music Team, and Bell Choir Director. Contact Calvary at 253-839-0344 or visit www.calvary-elca.org.

News and Notes

- **Rev. Mary E. Jensen, Communication Officer for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan (and Palestine),** was the guest of KIRO 710 AM radio host Dave Ross for one hour on February 24. She spoke with Dave for the first half of the show, and then took questions from callers.
- **Small coffee farmers in Central America are in desperate need** due to three successive years of drought and a glut in the market. This glut is caused largely by Vietnam becoming a major coffee producer, a decision made by European bankers ten years ago. We can help by giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and by purchasing Fair Trade Coffee, which gives small farmers in Central America and Africa a market for their coffee beans. To find out more, visit www.lwr.org.
- The **Faith and Praise Rally** in South in Charleston, South Carolina has been cancelled. The Rally was to feature Lutheran Vespers preacher Walt Wangerin and Christian singer/songwriter Ken Medema.
- Please join in the **ecumenical prayer vigil** for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world. The vigil is organized by state. **People in the Northwest Washington Synod are invited to focus on the Middle East in their daily prayers on the 18th of each month.** For more information about the prayer vigil or about Jerusalem and the Middle East, go to www.loga.org. A new web page is also available on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/middleeast.
- **PLTS Lenten Devotions** are now available online at www.plts.edu/docs/03.LENT.pdf and **Dr. Edmond Yee** has a new article online www.plts.edu/docs/ConfucianEducation.doc.
- **PLTS student Jeff Thiemann** created a Bible Study related to the reality TV series on CBS, *Survivor*. Feedback has been good and many are using it with their youth groups. Check it out at http://survivortheology.home.attbi.com.
- The board of the ELCA Division for Church in Society (DCS) appointed 15 members to a task force that will help the church develop a social statement on education. One of the members is **Anne Fretwell Schmidt, physical education and health teacher, Kent Junior High School, SeaTac**.
- **Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center in Bellingham** has mailed their summer camp schedule. Visit www.camplutherwood.org for the full listing or call 360-734-7652.
- **Presiding Bishop Hanson's** letter on the possibility of a war with Iraq is now also available on the ELCA's Web site at www.elca.org/bishop/iraq_0302.html.

Within Our Family

Within Our Family *depends upon you--not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.*

To Keep in Our Prayers....

† **Corey Burchill, husband of Rev. Paula Burchill (Bethany, Bainbridge Island).** Corey is in the Navy Reserves and has been returned to active duty, deployed to the Middle East. Please remember Corey and **others serving in the military** with prayers for their safety and for peace.

† **The family of Dr. Donald Juel.** A memorial service was held in March in the Chapel of the Incarnation at Luther Seminary. Dr. James Nestingen, professor of church history, preached at the service. Dr. Juel formerly served as professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. At the time of his death, Dr. Juel was the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. To read about Dr. Juel, please to go www.ptsem.edu/know/juel.htm. Blessed be to God who has given us a sure and certain hope through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

† **The Rev. Paul Swanson, Bishop of the Oregon Synod, his wife and family.** Bishop Swanson is healing after his heart attack and by-pass surgery in Janaury. Cards may be sent to the Oregon Synod office at 2800 N. Vancouver, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97227. Email messages may be sent to oregonsynod@qwest.net. Bishop Swanson will probably be out of the office at least six weeks.

† **The Rev. Eric Ranum** as he heals from his radiation treatments for his brain tumor. Updates on his condition are posted at www.Trinitylutheran-cda.org.

† **The Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **The Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he learns to do new things.

† For all the **rostered leaders and congregations** both within our Synod and in the ELCA.

† **For each one of us** in all we do each day. Teach us to model peace in our homes and with others in our congregation. Help us to express your way of peace with strength and conviction.

Singin' and Dancin' On The Ridge

Singin' and Dancin' On The Ridge will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 4 at St. John United, 5515 Phinney Ave N, Seattle. *The Hot Lattes* is a country band who will lead the group in song and dance. (Al Roehl, Associate in Ministry at University in Seattle, organizes the band.) For more information contact St. John United, Seattle, at 206-784-1040.

In-State Tuition House Bill

Report from Synod's Anti-Racism Committee

SB#5158 will give all Washington State students equal access to higher education whether documented or undocumented residents of Washington state.
This does not give free education, but affordable education. Under the current law, students born outside the U.S. who have attended and graduated from a Washington high school are required to pay higher non-resident tuition rates. These are for the most part Latino children who have gone through our lower education system but are looked at differently because they still hold immigrant status.

HB#1128 and SB#5193 Washington State Hate Crime Victim Insurance Protection Legislation.

The goal of this legislation is to protect individuals and religious, educational and non-profit institutions involved in religious, educational and charitable work from cancellation, non-renewal or non-insurance of property because they are victims of a hate crime reported within the previous five years. The purpose of this legislation recognizes that cancellation, non-renewal, or refusal to issue insurance for a victim of hate crime is revictimization of the victim or institution. Simply ask your legislators to vote favorably.

The Legislative Hotline is 1-800-562-6000. Call today.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of the

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(Permission is granted for congregations to copy information in Soundings .)

Deadline for the May/June 2003 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, April 7. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; fax: 360-435-5955; email: mpeiffle@msn.com; or telephone 360-403-9870.